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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Proposed Conference of Ministers of
Agriculture

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SUPPLEMENT

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
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1. Shortly after the return of the minister-presidents from the conference at Munich, Grotewohl proposed that a general vote of confidence in support of their action be taken by the parliaments of the various Länder. This would serve to convince critics in the western zones and beyond that the minister-presidents were not acting upon orders from the Russians. The suggestion was discussed by members of the central secretariat of the SED with officers of the SMA in Karlshorst, who required that the vote be unanimous. In view of expected LDP and CDU opposition, this requirement made execution of the plan impossible.

2. In order to eliminate the impression left by the Munich conference and counteract the publicity received by the Marshall plan, Russian authorities are attempting to organize a meeting of the ministers of agriculture of all zones. At this meeting, which is to take place in Berlin in the fall, the food situation is to be discussed and plans are to be made for the coming winter. SED newspapers and propaganda organizations have been instructed to cease their attacks on the food situation in the southwestern part of Germany and to publicize the proposed conference.

A meeting was held on 24 June at the "House of Soviet Culture" by the block committee of the parties of the eastern zone. The party chairmen, Grotewohl, Kaiser, and Dr. Külz, as well as Dr. Schiffer, the president of the Central Administration for Justice, and Colonel Tulpanov spoke on the German economic situation, concluding that a conference of the ministers of agriculture is necessary. Invitations to this conference will be issued by the block committee, so that it will not seem to be an affair officially sponsored by the Russians or the SED, but by all parties.

Comment: The meeting of the block committee at the "House of Soviet Culture" is of particular significance because it is the first time that this committee has been convoked by the SMA.)

CLASSIFICATION

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ **DECLASSIFIED**

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